

Request for Telephone Interview and Agenda for
Application No.: 10/630,808 with Examiner Neil R. McLean, Group Art Unit: 2625

I would like to schedule a telephone interview for the week of 7/19. I will be out of town the week of 7/12. You can leave me a message next week at 202-721-5436.

We proposed to amend Claim 4 to recite that the control unit is also configured to, in response to receipt by the reception unit of a reception end message indicating that all data of the image to be printed was received by the printer, display on the display unit a notice indicating that the communication between the digital camera and the printer can be disconnected by a user's operation before completion of a print process by the printer of the image to be printed, until the communication connection between the digital camera and the printer is disconnected by the user's operation or the reception unit receives a print completion message indicating that the print process of the image has been completed, and in response to receipt by the reception unit of the print completion message during the communication when the digital camera is connected to the printer, stop the notice display by the display unit, display an image, and enable the selection of another image to be printed by the selection unit.

By this arrangement, a notice (indicating that the communication between the digital camera and the printer can be disconnected by a user's operation) can be displayed on a digital camera that is different from the message received by the digital camera that triggers the notice (a reception end message indicating that all data of the image to be printed was received by the printer).

Support for the claim changes can be found in the original disclosure, for example in Figures 8, 9, 13, and 15, and the accompanying description, and therefore no new matter has been added.

In contrast, the citations to Suzuki et al., Fritz et al., and Gennetten et al. are not understood to relate to a digital camera that displays a notice (indicating that the communication between the digital camera and the printer can be disconnected by a user's operation) that is different from the message received by the digital camera that triggers the notice (the notice-triggering message being a reception end message indicating that all data of the image to be printed was received by the printer). Therefore, these citations are not understood to disclose or suggest the control unit recited by amended Claim 4.

The Office Action cites column 5, lines 57-63 of the Fritz et al. patent as disclosing a printer giving a note to a user of a processing unit by presenting a note on a screen of a PC, which corresponds to the claimed digital camera. However, this portion of the Fritz et al. patent is understood to merely disclose the displaying of a note whose content is based on an interpretation of the message that the printing process is broken. There is no indication in this passage that the note that is displayed is any different from the message that the printing process is broken:

A printing process might be broken, e.g. because the printer runs out of paper or the ACL connection is broken, etc. This is reported by the printer server in a message received by the printer client. The entity 501 comprises a device 527 arranged for interpret the message and give a note to the user of the processing unit, e.g. by presenting the note on the screen of the PC. (col. 5, lines 57-63 of Fritz et al.)

The Office Action also cites column 6, lines 17-22 of the Fritz et al. patent as showing that a message requesting disconnection of a session can be sent to a user. However, this portion of the Fritz et al. patent is understood to merely disclose that an entity 501 of a printer client or PC, comprises a sending device 523 for sending a message to the printer server in the printer requesting disconnection of a session. It is not understood to relate to the receipt and display by a digital camera or a PC of a notice indicating that the communication between the digital camera and the printer can be disconnected by a user's operation:

The entity 501 further comprises a closing device 522 arranged for closing the connection between the processing unit and the printer, the closing device comprising a sending device 523 arranged for sending a message to the printer server, the message comprising a request to disconnect a session identified by a session identity. (col. 6, lines 17-22 of Fritz et al.)

Since the citations to Suzuki et al., Fritz et al., and Gennetten et al. are not understood to disclose or suggest the control unit recited by amended Claim 4, the Office has not yet satisfied its burden of proof to establish a prima facie case of obviousness against amended Claim 4. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of amended Claim 4 be withdrawn. And because corresponding method Claim 32 has been amended in a similar manner, it is submitted to be allowable for similar reasons. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of amended Claim 32 also be withdrawn.

4. (Currently Amended) A digital camera ~~which has a memory for storing images, can be for being~~ directly connected to a printer, and ~~for has a function of~~ directly transmitting an image stored in a memory that stores images to the printer, comprising:
a display unit that displays an image stored in the memory;
a selection unit configured to select an image to be printed from among images displayed by said display unit, after communication between said the digital camera and the printer is established;
a print instruction transmitting unit configured to transmit, to the printer, a print instruction indicating that the image selected by said selection unit is to be printed;

an image transmitting unit configured to transmit, in response to receiving from the printer a request for transmitting the image to be printed, the requested image to the printer;
a reception unit configured to receive from the printer a message indicating the status of the printer; and

a control unit configured to, in response to receipt by said reception unit of a reception end message indicating that all data of the image to be printed was received by the printer, keep the communication connection between said the digital camera and the printer and display on said the display unit a message notice indicating that the communication between said the digital camera and the printer can be disconnected by a user's operation ~~and the digital camera is ready to photograph~~ before completion of a print process by the printer of the image to be printed, until the communication connection between said the digital camera and the printer is disconnected by the user's operation or said reception unit receives a print completion message indicating that the print process of the image has been completed; and in response to receipt by said reception unit of the print completion message during the communication when said the digital camera is connected to the printer, stop the message notice display by said display unit, display an image, and enable the selection of another image to be printed by said selection unit.

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